Board candidates discuss goals for district

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sophical differences were discussed Monday at a local candidates forum at O.E. Dunckel Middle School in Farmington thills.

The forum was sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the Farmington thills.

Farmington chapter of the American Association of University Women.

en.

Richard DeVries, a Ford Motor
Co. engineer, and Laura Myers, a
bookkeeper, face incumbent Susan
Rennels, a bank executive, on June
10 as the three vie for one four-year
term on the non-partisan Farmington Community Schools board of edmeation.

ucation.
Only Myers is not a college graduate. Both Myers and DeVries also man in last year's school board race.
"I am open and honest about my decisions." Myers said in response to a guestion about goal-setting, "You will know what I am thinking." She emphasized listening to parents and residents who come to meetings to speak.

RENNELS SAID that her record of more than eight years shows that she can effectively involve commu-nity members in the school as well

parents and teachers.
DeVries said that he wants to set
e district's goals in measureable
rms, hold the line on property tax
creases and make better use of

money already available.
Whether or not board members should have children in the district was an early question. Remels said that this southern remels said that this southern remembers of the said that the southern remembers of the said that the southern remembers of the said that the southern remembers of the said that is not required in the district.
DeVries pointed out that six out of seven school board trustees do not have children in the district. While it is not required for them to have school-age children, DeVries feels the board should have a better balance and more diversity.
Myers said school board members should do their best to represent the entire community.

should do their best to represent the entire community. Regarding their most serious criti-cisms, DeVries said that the district needs better assessment procedures for better accountability, a more in-dividualized curriculum and better

MYERS WANTS a long-range master plan similar to the Farming-tone to the master plan similar to the Farming-tone to the master plan similar to the Farming-tone to the master plan seeds to each its breath. "People who have moved into the school district in the last five years cannot appreciate the pressure the school district is under," she said.

Rennels also wants to see more long-range planning and curriculum improvement.

1 1.5 gm, a of your course."

Awarding extra credit honor points for advanced placement classes was another tsaue. Rennels said that this was studied for 18 months in order to help college-bound students to take more classes. DeVires and Myers both sald that college admissions offices take advanced placement classes into account and factor that in. In reference to the middle school redistricting study, DeVires said that he was disappointed because the board went with a plan which he said did not receive the same scrutiny as

did not receive the same scrutiny as other plans.

Myers, who served on the high school boundary study committee, said that she was unhappy with the entire secondary level boundary study process, designed to come up with ways to relieve school over-crowding, because did not allow. She did not support any of the middle school plans. Rennels said that the middle school plan adopted was a modification of an existing plan.

REGARDING at-risk and special-needs students, Myers said there needs to be a coordination of com-munity services that are already in place rather than a duplication of services in the school, Rennels said there are federal evaluation stand-ards that must be met. DeVries said

that the solution does not lie in cut²-ting the budget and increasing class size. "You must increase instruction, not decrease it," he said. DeVries relievated the need for

Devries reiterated the need for-better assessment methods and for-better communication with parents." Nebody knows the children like, their parents, "DeVries said. In In response to questions requiring, a simple yes or no answer, both My-ers and DeVries said the district-does not speed enough on instruc-tions of the communication of the control of the communication of the board does not always comply with the open meetings act. Rennels' disagreed. DeVries said that he fell school.

board trustees should be limited in the number of terms they serve, My-ers and Rennels disagreed.

All three said that they would sup-port an in-service training session for board members.

for board members.

And all three said they support cablecasting school board meetings. DeVries pointed out that at one time. Rennels did not support such broadcasting. Rennels said that she had added that the school board meeting soom is quite cramped.

The forum may be seen on cable Channel 12 at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Mag 28, and at 3 p.m. on Friday, June 7.

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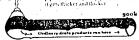
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